

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Development of Soviet Submarine Bases in the Bay of Vlone and on the Island of Saseno 2. Rocket Launching Sites on the Island of Saseno	DATE DISTR.	28 February 1953	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Bay of Vlone from Skele e Semanit point to the Isthmus of Karaburun has been fortified and developed as a Soviet naval base on the Adriatic. The adjoining coastline is also under Soviet control and the civilian population has been evacuated from the Island of Saseno with the exception of those few Albanians who are working on fortifications. The entire coastline is under the control of the Soviet military police who are particularly interested in possible Yugoslav spies.
2. The first submarine shelters carved in rock near Vlone have been completed and the second part of a similar project is presently being carried out. In the neighborhood of Vlone there is a submarine assembly plant which is now in operation assembling submarines which had arrived at Vlone in parts; these include Walter type submarines and some equipped with Schnorkels.
3. The submarines in the bay of Vlone are well protected against a naval blockade by subterranean canals which have been built through the Isthmus of Karaburun to the open sea. In addition, there is a formidable concentration of antiaircraft artillery in this area; thus, the submarines will have freedom of action and at the same time be safely harbored and protected against bombardment. The installations in this area are handled exclusively by Soviet military authorities, and the Albanian authorities have nothing to do with them.

4.

5. Modern airdromes have been established on the Vijose river, between Vlone and Mal-lakaster, to serve air transport between Bulgaria and Albania.

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25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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